Disinvestment of IBP shares to BPC

2668. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nitish Sengupta Committee appointed by Government had recommended disinvestment of IBP shares to BPC, another PSU;

(b) if so, whether the same has been accepted and implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Nitish Sengupta Committee had recommended, *inter-alia*, that Government should disinvest 33.6% share holding of IBP to a strategic partner *i.e.* Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) directly as permissible under the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) take over guidelines. However, IBP Co. Limited was one of the companies referred to the Disinvestment Commission in September, 1966 and the Commission in its 5th report presented to Government, recommended that Government should disinvest 33.6% of the Company's equity out of Government holding of 59% in IBP through strategic sale. The recommendation of Sengupta Committee and the report of Disinvestment Commission were examined by the Government and a final decision was taken to retain 26% of its equity in IBP and the balance to be disinvested to a strategic partner.

Natural gas resources

2669. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) The details of the natural gas resources located in the country so far;

(b) the details of their potential and the extent to which the potential has been exploited;

(c) the manner in which natural gas is being used in the country;

(d) whether it is proposed to set up an agency to work out schemes for the gas resources; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The balance recoverable reserve of natural gas estimated as on 1.4.2000 is around 726 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM). An average quantity of about 81 million standard cubic metre per day (MMSCMD) of gas has been produced during 2000-01 (April 2000 to January 2001), which after providing for the internal use by the producing companies and flaring, is supplied to various consumers.

(c) Natural gas is being used for power generation, as feed stock for production of fertilizers and petrochemicals, as a fuel in industries, for production of Compressed Natural gas (CNG), Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG), Natural Gas Liquid (NGL) etc. and for domestic use.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Supply of gas through pipeline

2670. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cooking gas is being made available through pipeline to residential areas in major cities;

(b) if so, the details of such projects, city-wise;

(c) whether this type of project is economical as compared to LPG connections in cyclinders; and

(d) the present status of project and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) currently, Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL), a Joint Venture company promoted by Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), is supplying piped natural gas for cooking purposes in the city of Delhi, while Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL), a Joint Venture company promoted by GAIL and M/s. British Gas, is supplying the same in Mumbai. A private company, namely, Gujarat Gas Company Limited has similar projects in Surat and Ankleshwar in Gujarat.

(c) Currently. the consumers are paying less for the piped gas than for the Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) connections. The difference various from place to place and time to time.